

CLAIMS:

1. System for controlling content of a personalized visual channel for at least one of a number of users, the users supplying visual information and being linkable via a network, which system comprises:

- relationship means for maintaining relationship information that is indicative of a relational distance between the user and other users,
- structure means for providing a visual structure for display within the personalized visual channel, the visual structure comprising
 - a home element representing a home location of the user, and
 - user elements, each user element representing one of the other users by said supplied visual information,

5 10 the user elements being positioned at a distance from the home element in dependence on the relationship information, and

- control means for receiving user commands for controlling the structure means.

15 2. System as claimed in claim 1, wherein the relationship means are arranged for receiving the relationship information from the user based on an acquaintance between the user and said other user, and/or for establishing at least one next level of relational distance based on the relationship information supplied by other users.

20 3. System as claimed in claim 1, wherein the relationship means are arranged for applying the relationship information provided by the user for establishing the relationship information for an inverse relation of said other user to the user.

4. System as claimed in claim 1, wherein the relationship means are arranged for
25 determining the relational distance based on at least one of the following user parameters:
geographical position, age, personal interest, temperature, light intensity, time zone.

5. System as claimed in claim 1, wherein the structure means are arranged for creating at least one substantially annular area of user elements around a centrally located

home element, the radial distance between the home element and the annular area corresponding to the relational distance.

6. System as claimed in claim 5, wherein the structure means are arranged for
5 displaying in a segment of an annular area user elements according to relationship information of the user element occupying a corresponding segment of a radially inward adjacent annular area.

7. System as claimed in claim 5, wherein the structure means are arranged for
10 determining the width of the annular areas and/or displaying an enlarged part of said structure in dependence of the user commands.

8. System as claimed in claim 5, wherein the structure means are arranged for
displaying a selection of the user elements in said structure in dependence of at least one of
15 the following: a link to the respective user being available; a timer function; detection of movement within the visual information of a user element.

9. System as claimed in claim 5, wherein the user control means are arranged for
receiving a move command, and the structure means are arranged for moving the user
20 elements in an annular area.

10. Device for providing a personalized visual channel for at least one of a number of users, the users supplying visual information and being linkable via a network, for
cooperating with the system of claim 1, the device comprising

- 25 – an input unit for receiving real time information from a capture unit, which real time information comprises video information related to the user,
- storage means for storing user parameters identifying the user,
- user control means for receiving user commands for controlling structure means for generating a visual structure for display within the personalized visual channel, the visual structure comprising
- 30 – a home element representing a home location of the user, and
- user elements, each user element representing one of the other users by said supplied visual information,

the user elements being positioned in the visual structure at a distance from the home element in dependence on the relationship information,

- a network unit for coupling the device to the system via a network for transmitting the real time information and the user parameters and user commands and for receiving the personalized visual channel, and
- generating means for generating an output signal for display of the personalized visual channel.

11. Method of controlling content of a personalized visual channel for at least one of a number of users, the users supplying visual information and being linkable via a network, which method comprises:

- maintaining relationship information that is indicative of a relational distance between the user and other users,
- providing a visual structure for display within the personalized visual channel, the visual structure comprising
 - a home element representing a home location of the user, and
 - user elements, each user element representing one of the other users by said supplied visual information,

the user elements being positioned in the visual structure at a distance from the home element

in dependence on the relationship information, and

- receiving user commands for controlling the visual structure.

12. Method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the method comprises

- providing user registration for users which are allowed to connect a user device to the system via the network for providing the personalized visual channel to the user, and
- generating the user parameters identifying the user for user registration and for storage in the user device.

13. Computer program product for controlling content of a personalized visual

channel, which program is operative to cause a processor to perform the method as claimed in claim 11.